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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
25 October 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

India-Pakistan Situation Report
(As of 1100 EDT)

1. Pakistan President Yahya Khan, according to press reports, has asked UN Secretary General Thant to pay an immediate visit to India and Pakistan in an effort to arrange a mutual withdrawal of forces from border areas. Yahya reportedly proposed that the military units, along with their armor and artillery, be withdrawn either to peacetime bases or to mutually agreed positions. He also demanded an end to armed infiltration from India into East Pakistan.

2. India has consistently opposed bringing the Indo-Pakistani problem before the UN, arguing that the primary dispute is between the two wings of Pakistan and is subject to settlement only through a political agreement between Yahya's government and the elected leaders of East Pakistan. Furthermore, Indian leaders have, in effect, rejected all proposals for a mutual troop withdrawal from border areas. Mrs. Gandhi, during a stopover in Beirut on her way to Brussels to begin her tour of Western Europe and the US, told newsmen yesterday that India did not intend to take the Indo-Pakistani dispute to the United Nations.

3. The situation along the borders remains unchanged with the India-West Pakistan border quiet but with reports of continued firing across the East Pakistan border. Indian officials claim several persons were killed and injured Sunday night when Pakistani forces shelled four towns in India near the eastern

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border of East Pakistan. Radio Karachi, in turn, reports that Indian artillery subjected a district capital in East Pakistan to "heavy shelling" on Sunday, killing 12 persons and injuring 23 others.

4. There have been no major military moves by either India or Pakistan, although both sides apparently continue to prepare their forces for the possibility of full-scale hostilities.